

Message Text

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UNCLAS MANILA 13140

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TAGS: SREF, VN, RP

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD USNS HUDSON

REF: MANILA 13092

1. FOR THE RECORD, THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF DFA NOTE RECEIVED LATE MORNING AUGUST 27 WHICH INFORMS THE EMBASSY THAT GOP CANNOT ALLOW THE LANDING OF HUDSON REFUGEES. SUBSEQUENTLY, FORESEC ROMULO AND AMBASSADOR REACHED UNDERSTANDING THAT GOP WOULD AGREE TO LANDING OF REFUGEES IF US WOULD UNCONDITIONALLY QUARANTEE RESETTLEMENT OUTSIDE OF PHILIPPINES (REFTEL).

2. BEGIN TEXT

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, WITH REFERENCE TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 525 DATED 24 AUGUST 1976 CONCERNING 46 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BOARD THE USNS HUDSON, REGRETS TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT ALLOW THE LANDING OF THESE REFUGEES IN PHILIPPINE TERRITORY.

SINCE THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND DESPITE ITS DEFICIENT FACILITIES, HAS BEEN GIVING SHELTER
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TO REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM ARRIVING IN DIFFERENT TYPES

OF SMALL SEACRAFT. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN HOPING THAT THESE REFUGEES WOULD BE RESETTLED WITHOUT DELAY IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS THEY IMPOSE A HEAVY BURDEN ON THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND SINCE THE INTENTION OF MOST OF THEM IS REALLY TO GO TO THE U.S. DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON REFUGEES' REPRESENTATIVE IN MANILA, HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL IN MANILA SEVERAL HUNDRED VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. RECENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED REPORTS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT GROUPS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED IN UNSEAWORTHY FISHING BOATS OR ON VESSELS WHICH RAN AGROUND. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS AGAIN FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF FINDING FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE THEM UNTIL THEY CAN BE RESETTLED.

IT WOULD SEEM, THEREFORE, THAT THE REFUGEES ON THE USNS HUDSON COULD BE BETTER TAKEN CARE OF IF THEY ARE BROUGHT TO ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT FACILITIES WHERE THEIR PROCESSING FOR ENTRY INTO THE U.S. CAN BE DONE MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING. END TEXT.
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